REMARKS

In the Office Action, claims 1, 2 and 4-41 were rejected. Claims 1, 2, 4-37 and 39-40 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sallberg (2001/0043588) in view of newly cited Hall et al. (6438383). Claims 38 and 41 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sallberg in view of Hall as addressed in claims 36, 37, 39 and 40, and further in view of Hartmaier (6304753). Independent claim 34 has been amended to change "feature request" to "feature service request" in line 5, thus correcting a typographical omission. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

A common feature of each of the rejected claims is that service feature information for wireless devices can be provided without use of a VLR by storing such information in a centralized location associated with a data network, namely, a feature server located in a home network that is accessible via the data network. Note that the home network can be a wireless network or could be part of the data network itself, as shown by the three feature server examples in Applicants' Fig. 2. Regardless of the nature of the feature server's home network, service features for wireless devices are obtained by sending service feature requests from a wireless telecommunication network into the data network, e.g., via a wireless network switch that is connected to the data network, for delivery to the feature server in the home network. This avoids having to maintain VLRs and the overhead associated with the usual HLR/VLR intercommunication messaging.

The Sallberg reference lacks any teaching or suggestion of accessing a data network for the purpose of obtaining wireless device service feature information. In fact, it does not seem to have anything to do with feature service lookups at all. As shown in Fig. 3A, and as described in paragraph 0025, Sallberg is directed to a system wherein a mobile station 300 that is connected

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to the Internet 390 can receive voice calls by requesting a voice gateway feature 325 to forward

incoming calls from the PSTN 350 to a voice gateway 340 that converts the calls to IP format so

they can be received at the mobile station while it is in the IP communication mode. The Internet

390 is the only data network shown in Sallberg, and it plays no role in the functioning of

Sallberg's call forwarding system. The Internet 390 is shown for the sole purpose of illustrating

that the mobile station 300 is connected thereto, presumably for conventional purposes such as

Web surfing, email, etc.

As acknowledged on page 3, lines 12-19 of the Office Action, "Sallberg . . . does not

disclose accessing (i.e., by a switch) a packet data network from a wireless network by issuing a

feature service request into said packet data network for administering service features for a

wireless terminal in a home network; managing all service features in a central location by

delivering said feature request to a feature server located in said home network." However, the

Office cites Hall (Fig. 1 and col. 7, lines 24-50) as teaching "accessing (i.e., by a switch) (MSC)

a packet data network (PDN, internet, etc.) from a wireless network by issuing a feature service

request into said packet data network for administering service features for a wireless call

without use of a VLR to or from a wireless terminal in a home network . . . ." Office Action,
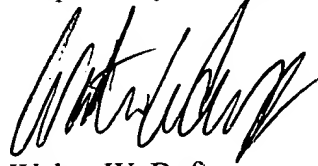
page 3, line 19 to page 4, line 2.

Hall is directed to a system and method wherein an MSC routes speech/circuit data via

another MSC connected to the PSTN, and also routes packet data via a PDN (packet switch)

connected to the Internet. The Hall MSC does not appear to send feature service requests into

the Internet. For one thing, Hall doesn't show any feature server connected to the Internet.

Instead, as stated at column 7, lines 33-36 and 42-45, and as shown in Hall's Fig. 1, the MSC

connects to a conventional HLR. It uses the HLR to perform packet data service subscription

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checks. This is the only service mentioned in the cited passage spanning column 7, lines 24-50 of Hall.

As such, it appears that Hall does not supply the missing limitation of Sallberg of "accessing . . . a packet data network from a wireless network by issuing a feature service request into said packet data network [and] . . . managing all service features in a central location by delivering said feature request to a feature server . . . ." Thus, the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 103 that are based on Sallberg and Hall do not appear to properly support a conclusion of obviousness.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejections be withdrawn, and that Notices of Allowability and Allowance be duly issued.

Respectfully submitted,

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